

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (New): A probe-immobilized substrate, comprising:

a substrate,

at least one first probe for HCV (hepatitis C virus) comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, or their full complements, immobilized on the substrate; and

at least one second probe for an MBL polymorphism comprising the bases between 415-425 of SEQ ID NOS: 37, 38, 39 or 40, or their full complements, immobilized on the substrate.

Claim 35 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, which is a probe-immobilized chip.

Claim 36 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of a base plate, a porous material, a micro-titer plate, beads, spherical material, a granular material, a magnetic material or magnetic beads.

Claim 37 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein said first probe consists of a sequence between 20 and 30 bases in length.

Claim 38 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein said first probe consists of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, or their full complements.

Claim 39 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein said first probe for HCV (hepatitis C virus) comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2 or 3, or their full complements.

Claim 40 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein said first probe for HCV (hepatitis C virus) comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2 or 3, or their full complements, wherein said first probe ranges from 21-30 bases in length.

Claim 41 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein said first probe for HCV (hepatitis C virus) comprises SEQ ID NO: 5, 6 and 7, or their full complements.

Claim 42 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein said first probe for HCV (hepatitis C virus) comprises SEQ ID NO: 5, 6 and 7, or their full complements, and wherein said first probe ranges from 18-30 bases in length.

Claim 43 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein the second probe is between 11 and 30 bases in length.

Claim 44 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein the second probe comprises SEQ ID NO: 37 or 38 and is not longer than 30 bases.

Claim 45 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, wherein the second probe comprises SEQ ID NO: 39 or 40 and is not longer than 30 bases.

Claim 46 (New): A method for identifying HCV and an MBL polymorphism in a sample containing a polynucleic acid comprising:

contacting polynucleic acid obtained from a biological sample from a subject with the probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34 and

determining polynucleic acid binding in said sample to said first and second probes, wherein the presence of binding identifies HCV and an MBL polymorphism in said sample.

Claim 47 (New): A method for determining susceptibility of an individual to HCV, comprising:

a) reacting an extract of nucleic acid from an individual with the probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 34, and

b) detecting said nucleic acid of HCV that binds to said first nucleic acid probe and said nucleic acid of an MBL polymorphism of said individual that binds to said second nucleic acid probe, wherein the presence of both said nucleic acid of said HCV that binds to said first nucleic acid probe and said nucleic acid of an MBL polymorphism of said individual that binds to said second nucleic acid probe is correlated with susceptibility of said individual to HCV.

Claim 48 (New): A probe-immobilized substrate, comprising:

a substrate,

at least one first probe for HCV (hepatitis C virus) comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7, or their full complements, immobilized on the substrate; and

at least one second probe for an MBL polymorphism comprising the bases between 415-425 of SEQ ID NOS: 37, 38, 39 or 40, or their full complements, immobilized on the substrate,

wherein said first and second probes do not exceed 30 bases in length.

Claim 49 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 48, which is a probe-immobilized chip.

Claim 50 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 48, wherein said first probe comprises at least one of SEQ ID NO: 5, 6 or 7, or their full complements.

Claim 51 (New): The probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 48, wherein said second probe is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 37 and 38.

Claim 52 (New): A method for identifying HCV and an MBL polymorphism in a sample comprising:

contacting polynucleic acid obtained from a biological sample from a subject with the probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 48 and

determining polynucleic acid binding in said sample to said first and second probes, wherein the presence of binding identifies HCV and an MBL polymorphism in said sample.

Claim 53 (New): A method for determining susceptibility of an individual to HCV, comprising:

a) reacting an extract of nucleic acid from an individual with the probe-immobilized substrate of Claim 47, and

b) detecting said nucleic acid of HCV that binds to said first nucleic acid probe and said nucleic acid of an MBL polymorphism of said individual that binds to said second nucleic acid probe, wherein the presence of both said nucleic acid of said HCV that binds to said first nucleic acid probe and said nucleic acid of an MBL polymorphism of said individual that binds to said second nucleic acid probe is correlated with susceptibility of said individual to HCV.